

Message Text

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FOLLOWING EDITORIAL SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST JULY 19 TITLED
"THE PROBLEM OF TAIWAN":

1. IT IS, INDEED, DIFFICULT TO CONTEMPLATE A FULL-FLEDGED POLITICAL RECONCILIATION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BETWEEN THE REGIME OF GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK IN TAIWAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG ON THE CHINA MAINLAND.
2. AS IN THE CASE OF DIVIDED VIETNAM AND KOREA, THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OF THE TWO REGIMES ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE AND THEIR IDEOLOGIES AS DIFFERENT AS CHALK AND CHEESE.
3. HOWEVER, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE PRESIDENT SITUATION IS THAT NEITHER PEKING NOR TAIPEI APPARENTLY SEES ANY FURTHER MERIT IN STIMULATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF WAR AS THEY WERE WONT TO INDULGE IN PREVIOUSLY.
4. PEKING'S EXHORTATIONS TO "LIBERATE TAIWAN" ARE LESS FREQUENT AND MILITANT AND TAIPEI'S SLOGANS CALLING FOR THE "RECOVERY OF THE MAINLAND" HAVE BECOME MORE RESTRAINED.

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5. THE EVOLUTION IS, OF COURSE, LARGELY DUE TO THE ACCOMMODATION

REACHED BETWEEN PEKING AND WASHINGTON WHICH FOLLOWED THE FORMER'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, REPLACING THE NATIONALIST REGIME AS THE SOLE, LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA.

6. THE CHANGE RAISES HOPES THAT THE QUESTION OF TAIWAN WILL BE EVENTUALLY RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS AND DIPLOMACY, AND BY THE INDIRECT OVERTURES WHICH PEKING RECENTLY INITIATED BY WAY OF FORMER NATIONALIST OFFICIALS AND ARMY OFFICERS.

7. INSTEAD OF DIRECT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TALKS, PEKING ENCOURAGES INFORMAL, DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO REGIMES AND PRIVATE TRIPS TO THE MAINLAND BY OVERSEAS CHINESE NATIONALS, INCLUDING RESIDENTS OF TAIWANG, TO VISIT FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AND ANCESTRAL HOMES.

8. THE INDIRECT APPEALS, AIMED AT PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF TAIWAN WITH CHINA PROPER, ARE OFTEN NOSTALGIC IN CHARACTER, STRESSING COMMON HERITAGE AND NATIONALISTIC PRIDE AND THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE VISITS THAT HAVE MATERIALIZED SO FAR TENDS TO REFLECT PEKING'S TOLERANT AND FORGIVING APPROACH TOWARDS ALL REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL FEELINGS AND ALLEGIANCE OR SOCIAL BACKGROUND.

9. HOWEVER, THESE ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS CANNOT RESOLVE THE BASIC QUESTION OF TAIWAN FOR OBVIOUSLY A PREREQUISITE TO A FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTION IS AN EARNEST DIALOGUE BETWEEN PEKING AND TAIPEI.

10. PEKING NOW TREATS TAIWAN AS A TOLERABLE IRREGULARITY BUT IN THE WORLD AT LARGE THERE IS AN EVIDENT WISH TO SEE BOTH SIDES ESTABLISH PEACEFUL CONTACTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES AT STAKE HAS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF GERMANY.

11. SOONER OR LATER TAIPEI AND PEKING WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS IN SOME FORM OF RELATIONSHIP THAT RECONCILES POLITICAL REALITIES AND HISTORIC TIES.
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